

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-22, 24-29, and 31-42 are pending. In the Final Office Action mailed on March 20, 2006 the Examiner took the following action: (1) rejected claims 1, 2, 10-14, 22, 24-29, and 32-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Adams (U.S. 3627436); (2) rejected claims 36 and 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hanger (U.S. 2963927) (3) rejected claims 4, 16, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams in view of Alam (2004/0076484); (4) rejected claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanger in view of Alam; and (5) rejected claims 38 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanger in view of Adams. The Examiner acknowledged that claim 5-9 and 17-21 are allowable. Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments, and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Amendments to Claims to Change “Adapted” to “Configured”

In the Office Action mailed August 25th, 2005, the Examiner indicated a concern over Applicants' use of the term “adapted” in the claims. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12-14, 16-21, 25, 27, 36, 37, and 40 to change “adapted” to – configured --, thereby addressing the Examiner's concerns in this regard. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not change the scope of the claims, but rather, merely correct the informality noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments as proposed by Applicants.

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II. Allowable Subject Matter

Without further comment as to the merits of the Examiner's rejections, and without prejudice to subsequent continuation or divisional applications, Applicants have amended claims 1, 13, 27, 36, and 40 to include the subject matter acknowledged as being allowable by the Examiner (specifically, in claims 5 and 17). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-22, 24-29, and 31-42 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-22, 24-29, and 31-42 are now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: June 20, 2006

By:


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- 16 -

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